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LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The necessary conditions for free and fair elections within certain parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, specifically the entity of Republika Srpska, have not been met. Under either the criteria established by the Dayton Peace Agreement or the minimum standards relied upon by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for certification, the pending elections and their results within the Republika Srpska cannot be considered democratic, free or fair, or legally valid. We will be pleased to elaborate on our conclusion during a proper hearing established to evaluate the facts.

Briefly, the conditions are not even marginal but are completely unreceptive to the free expression of the voters' democratic rights within the Republika Srpska. Basic human and democratic rights are trampled and diversity is not tolerated. Refugees are not allowed to even start the process of return. Internationally indicted war criminals are free to roam and dictate while ordinary citizens are actively denied freedom of movement. The very authorities that are responsible for these abuses are also organizing the elections in the Republika Srpska.

For these and other reasons, we request that the complete results of the elections in the Republika Srpska be declared null and void and legally invalid. At least a proper forum must be prepared to gather and consider the evidence so that a legally binding decision can be reached.

Our view is also being forwarded to OSCE and other relevant international forums not to recognize the consequences of such elections in the Republika Srpska at least until a full and proper hearing on the matter can be held. In the meantime, we will undertake on our part the maximum to ensure free and fair, timely and democratic elections, in cooperation with the international community or otherwise, within Bosnia and Herzegovina wherever we can practically do so.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Signatory of the Dayton/Paris Agreement
Special Envoy